

REMARKS

The Office Action asserts that the claims of the application are directed to patentably distinct species of the invention. As an example, the Examiner identified two species with respect to whether the claimed processor limitation is recited as being a portion of the image scanner (see, claim 168 and Figure 9 of the Specification) or instead is recited as being a controller linked to the image scanner (see, claim 169 and Figure 1). The Examiner further requested that Applicants elect a single disclosed species.

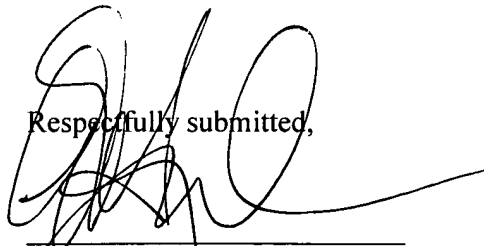
Applicants have reviewed the claims and elect the disclosed species of the invention related to the processing of documents (for example, checks and/or currency bills) by imaging to extract document identification information, and the comparison of that extracted document identification information with stored document information to identify suspect/counterfeit documents. The claims which read on this species are: Claims 165-167, 170-172, 174, 211-212, 215-225, 257-258, 261-264, 278, 281, 284, 287, 290, 293, 296, 299, 302, 305, 315-316 and 322-324.

Independent claims 165, 219 and 315 are generally directed to document processing. Independent claims 278, 281, 284 and 287 are more specifically directed to currency bill document processing. Independent claims 290, 293, 296 and 299 are more specifically directed to check document processing. Independent claims 302 and 305 are directed to both currency bill and check processing.

All other dependent claims directed to other species are withdrawn pending the finding of an allowable independent claim.

1/10/05
Date

Respectfully submitted,



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